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## Proceedings of the Club

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 1901

This meeting was held at the College of Pharmacy, 17 persons present, Dr. Britton presiding in the absence of other officers.

The following were elected to active membership: Mr. A. G. Agnew, 45 Wall Street; Mr. J. M. Hoffman, Tallahassee, Florida; Mrs W. E. Damon, The Chelsea, 222 W. 23d Street, N. Y.; Mr. E. L. Morris, Western High School, Washington, D. C.; Mr. James Walker, 47 Maiden Lane; Miss Mary I. MacDonald, 17 Sylvan Terrace, W. 161st St.; Miss Caroline A. Baer, 102 E. 96th Street; Mr. Roland M. Harper, 1310 Boston Road; Mr. Percy Wilson, Botanical Gardens, Bronx Park, N. Y.

The Field Committee's report for 1900, delayed by illness of the Chairman, Dr. Schoeney, was presented this evening by Mr. Eugene Smith for the committee, and was accepted by the Club. A plea was made by Mr. Smith for more volunteers to act as guides, it having often proved difficult to secure them.

The Secretary announced that the annual grant from the Newberry Fund in aid of scientific research is open to competitors this year until June 1, 1901, in geology or paleontology. Dr. Britton remarked that a friend of scientific investigation had so added to the fund as to bring its award up from \$50, as before, to \$100, the amount offered this year.

On motion, Dr. A. Hollick was made nominee of the Club for this award for the present year.

The first paper of the evening was by Dr. John K. Small, on "The North American Genera of Mimosaceae." Dr. Small exhibited a uniform series of diagrammatic drawings, illustrating the flowers and fruit of each of these genera, and explained his proposed classification, replacing the previous artificial grouping. The variability of the fruit in valves, margins and cross-partitions was commented on. Discussion of the common sensitive plant followed, in which it was remarked that the sensitiveness to shock is so delicate as to be stimulated by holding a burning-glass near,

or by drops of rain-water on first falling, or by holding a sponge of ammonia or of chloroform near. The utility seems unknown, except as the hot sun setting the leaves on edge prevents injury from intense sunlight. Sachs' suggestion was that the depression of the leaves served as a protection from hail; but it now appears that the native center of the plant is chiefly in the Orinoco region where hailstorms are unknown. Much energy is exhausted by folding, and it is well known that the greenhouse sensitive-plants are frequently worked to death by repeated irritation.

The second paper was by Dr. Rydberg, on "The Oaks of the Rocky Mountains." Dr. Rydberg exhibited examples of 28 species of this region. His paper will soon appear in print.

EDWARD S. BURGESS,  
*Secretary.*

TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 1901

The meeting was held at the Museum of the New York Botanical Garden at 3:45 P. M., with Dr. N. L. Britton in the chair. Fifteen persons were present.

The announced scientific program consisted of a "Report of a recent visit to the Royal Gardens at Kew, England," by Mr. George V. Nash. Mr. Nash was absent about six weeks, nearly the entire time on the other side being spent at the Royal Gardens, Kew, securing specimens of living plants for the New York Botanical Garden. The collections were carefully inspected under the guidance of the officers of the institution, and such duplicate material picked out as was desired. In this way much valuable material was secured, both for the outside and conservatory collections. Many of these were procurable only at a botanical garden, and a number of them were not obtainable elsewhere than at Kew. Of the large number of plants selected, over 1000 species have already been received and incorporated in our collections. These include about 550 species of herbaceous plants, 350 shrubs and trees, and 150 succulents. The remainder of the material will follow as fast as the authorities at Kew can select it.

Dr. Britton remarked that the favor accorded by Sir William Thiselton-Dyer in permitting Mr. Nash to select duplicates of living

plants from the rich collections at Kew would be most gratefully appreciated not alone by the managers and members of the New York Botanical Garden, but by all American botanists.

Dr. Britton presented a communication on a tree new to the American continent, a white birch from the Alaskan region, collected by Mr. R. S. Williams and Mr. Tarleton, and represented in the U. S. National Herbarium also by two specimens collected by Miss E. Taylor. The tree was described by Regel as *Betula alba*, subsp. *verrucosa*, var. *resinifera*, but is evidently entitled to specific rank.

Adjournment followed.

MARSHALL A. HOWE,  
*Secretary pro tem.*

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 1901

The meeting was held at the College of Pharmacy with Professor Underwood in the chair. Ten persons were present and the following new members were elected: Miss May Palmer, Training Dep't, Normal College, N. Y. City; Miss Nellie Y. Pietsch, 221 East 62d Street, N. Y. City; Mr. George W. Short, 159 West 125th Street, N. Y. City; Miss Ada Watterson, Barnard College, 119th St. and Broadway, N. Y. City.

The announced scientific program consisted of a paper by Professor Francis E. Lloyd, entitled, "The Genus *Lycopodium*: A Criticism," which in the absence of the author was read by the secretary pro tem. This was a review and criticism of the treatment of the genus *Lycopodium* by Pritzel in the recently published part of Engler and Prantl's "Die natürlichen Pflanzenfamilien" dealing with the Lycopodiaceae. The paper will be published in full in an early number of *Torreya*.

Professor Underwood remarked on segregations in the *Selaginella rupestris* group, stating that Dr. Hieronymus of Berlin had recently recognized twenty-seven species in this group, ten of them American, outside of those recently proposed in this country.

MARSHALL A. HOWE,  
*Secretary pro tem.*